



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session

***Work Session
Penn Room***

***Monday, July 16, 2012
7:00 P.M.***

Although Council Work Sessions are open to the public, public comment is not permitted. However, citizens are encouraged to attend and observe the work sessions. Comment from citizens or professionals during the work session may be solicited on agenda topics via invitation by the Council President.

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Council Office Report**
- III. Update Tax Amnesty Program Collections**
- IV. Update Implementation of QoL Recommendations (Mayor)**
Recommendations distributed 6-18 attached)
- V. Yard Waste Collection (including grass clippings)**
 - a. Recommendation from Mr. Lloyd**
 - b. Council Staff recommends pay to participate or inter-municipal approach**
- VI. Adjourn**



CITY COUNCIL

Work Session

Meeting Report Monday, June 18, 2012

Council Members Attending: F. Acosta, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, S. Marmarou, D. Reed, R. Corcoran, D. Sterner, J. Waltman

Others Attending: L. Kelleher, T. Butler, L. Agudo, R. Natale, E. Lloyd

Mr. Acosta called the Work Session to order at approximately 7:05 pm.

Reading Phillies Lease Agreement

Craig Stein, owner of the Reading Phillies, stated that since he became the owner of the Reading Phillies franchise in 1986 he has had a tremendous partnership and relationship with the City. He stated that historically, he and the City have also shared the same vision to keep ticket prices affordable, provide free parking and reinvest in the facility.

Mr. Stein explained that this 10 year loan was taken to modernize the facility. Originally the State was to cover 50% of the cost and the Phillies and City were to cover 25% each. He explained that there is a balloon payment due in 2015. He stated that Fulton Bank offered an amortized loan which would reduce the interest rate from 5.75% to 4.8%. This loan has a fixed interest rate for the first five years then a variable rate between 4 and 12% beginning in the sixth year. He explained that the Reading Phillies must cover any increase in the interest rate.

Mr. Stein explained that the lease payment is currently \$22,000 annually; however escalators of \$500 per year go into effect beginning in 2018. He stated that this lower

than normal lease payment was negotiated because the Reading Phillies agreed to take on more responsibility for maintenance and utility bills, and investment into the City-owned facility. He noted that the most recent improvements included upgrades to various components that the City should be responsible for.

Mr. Acosta announced the need for the remainder of this discussion to be held in executive session as per Sunshine Act Section 708 a.4 regarding contracts of leased property. The executive session concluded at 7:43 pm and the work session was reconvened.

Citizens United Resolution

Pastor Opalinski and Ramona Turpin asked Council to consider adding a resolution to the June 25th agenda to support the Citizens United movement regarding the Move to Amend campaign to call for an amendment to the Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and return our elections to the citizens of the United States and reclaim our right to self-governance.

Pastor Opalinski explained the difference between corporations and humans in life, scope and influence. He expressed the belief that the Supreme Court's decision provides corporations with undue power which minimizes the empowerments of individual voters.

Ms. Turpin explained that this is a nationwide movement. She described the impact of the resolution if adopted.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz applauded the group for bringing this issue forward. She expressed the belief that this is a good first step but noted that many other follow up actions will be needed.

Ms. Reed agreed and noted that in addition to corporations, the amounts an individual can contribute to political campaigns should also be reduced. She also suggested that the group include focus on local elections and follow the local political money trails.

Mr. Sterner agreed that the problem goes farther than corporations.

Mr. Acosta agreed to move this resolution onto the June 25th agenda. He also noted the need to change the apathy of voters and the need to educate voters. He also suggested changes to Political Action Committee (PAC) regulations.

Quality of Life (QoL) Ticketing Program

Mr. Agudo and Mr. Natale distributed their recommendations for modifications to the QoL Program and presented a Power Point showing their observations from a review of the program which began in February 2011.

Mr. Agudo stated that the program was initiated to make Reading a cleaner City and to encourage property owners to comply with the City's Property Maintenance regulations. He noted that of the 23 violations included in the program the top six violation issues are for rubbish/trash related violations, high grass/weeds and use of indoor furniture outdoors; 27% for high grass/weeds and 27% accumulation of rubbish. He noted that the majority of the violations are issued at rental properties; 789 owner occupied properties received 1908 tickets and 1549 rentals received 4047 tickets. "Before and After" photos were displayed which show that the program works to achieve compliance. By Council District, District 1 received the lowest number of tickets totaling 1747 tickets and District 2 received the most tickets totaling 5068.

Mr. Agudo made the following recommendations to improve the QoL Program as follows:

- Broader bilingual educational campaign
- Use of a \$0 charge for the first violation at a property followed by information on the QoL program
- Implementing a protocol for collection of delinquent tickets
- Differentiate penalties for severe and minor infractions
- Increase the number of staff members who hear appeals or use an independent hearing officer
- Implement a 3 day grace period between repeat tickets

Mr. Waltman stated that it is good to see that the program has been reviewed and has evolved. He noted the need for the City to focus its resources on a block by block basis. He suggested starting a Clean and Lien program that would help the City recover the cost of work orders to resolve issues ignored by the property's owner.

Mr. Waltman expressed the belief that the \$0 ticket warning will not correct the problem or engage the property owner.

Mr. Sterner stated that the City began the QoL program using a \$0 approach and a strong educational campaign. He noted that the education program occurred on more than one occasion. He questioned how many times the City should spend money to keep reminding property owners about regulations.

Mr. Marmarou expressed the belief that the program effectively drives compliance. He

noted that after receiving a speeding ticket the average driver is more cautious about how he drives. He stated that the QoL program will operate in the same way.

Mr. Corcoran, noting the comparison between the number of tickets issued to owner occupied and rental properties, stated that the majority of the problems at rental properties are the fault of the tenant, not the property owner. He stated that most times the landlord does not receive the ticket by mail until the late fee is applied. He suggested lengthening the time period before the late fee goes into effect.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz agreed with ongoing education due to the transiency of City residents. She agreed that the program is improving the appearance of properties. She noted the need for the City to comply with the regulations it sets for property owners. She noted the unacceptable appearance of the Lindbergh Viaduct.

Ms. Reed agreed, noting that the City should take a leadership role in property management. She also noted the disparity in receiving a \$25 QoL ticket for trash/rubbish set out when a permanent dumpster located at 4th and Penn Streets can be overflowing and leaching without anyone taking notice. She agreed with Mr. Agudo's recommendation to revise the fines based on the severity of the violation.

Mr. Acosta agreed with the need for the City to be a model of responsibility with property maintenance.

Mr. Agudo reported that Property Maintenance staff will be performing community projects during non-work hours to show their support for the community. He stated that they will begin on Penn Street. Ms. Reed and Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz took issue with volunteer work on Penn Street unless it is coordinated with the volunteer work that is already performed on Penn Street. They described the various projects the volunteer group has taken on over the past year. They suggested selecting another area that is currently uncared for.

Other Matters

Mr. Waltman noted the need for the City to take a stance on the new gas meters installed by UGI. He stated that the meters are unsightly and become a hazard in areas without generous setbacks. Articles regarding the gas meters were distributed.

Mr. Acosta noted the number of yard sales and sidewalk sales that occur in the downtown area on Saturdays. Mr. Natale asked Mr. Acosta to provide the approximate locations as Property Maintenance inspectors now work Saturday hours. The group discussed various illegal activities that occur during times when City Hall is not open.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz thanked the Police Department for their attention to the various criminal activities that occurred in East Reading over the past weekend.

Council Staff Report

The Council Staff Report is attached to the agenda.

As no other business was brought to the table the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk



Council Office Report

6/1/12 through 6/30/12

Council Staff

Linda Kelleher, City Clerk

Michelle Katzenmoyer, Deputy City Clerk

Takera Tucker, summer youth employee (beginning June 26)

Constituent Service

The following table is a rough tabulation of the number and type of issues addressed by the Council Office:

Calls for Directory Assistance

Call Type	Number of Calls
Solid Waste	6
Codes	17
Tax	5
Mayor	1
Police	8
Fire	2
Community Development	0
Planning & Zoning	5
Human Resources	2
Accounting/Finance	2
Law	2
Managing Director	1
RAWA	6
Public Works	4
IT	3
Parking Authority	0
Services Center	9
Human Relations Commission	7
Parks/Recreation	2
Streets	1
Building and Trades	3
Purchasing	0
Treasury	0
Auditor	1

Sanitary Sewers	4
Total Calls	91

<u>Message for Council</u>	<u>Complaints</u>	<u>Non-City Directory Assistance</u>	<u>Calls Handled In- Office</u>	<u>Total Calls</u>	<u>Walk -Ins</u>	<u>Email Requests</u>	<u>Email Complaints</u>	<u>Total Email</u>	<u>Total Constit uent Service</u>
19	14	35	137	296	38	1217	845	2062	2396

Houses Identified As Missing Housing Permits, Business Licenses, or Zoning

Areas Covered: MDJ Cases
Property transactions
Citizen complaints
Assessment Appeals

Total (Since Feb. 2008): Approx. 12,323

Activities of Boards, Authorities and Commissions

Environmental Advisory Council – The EAC heard a presentation on State Act 13 and its effect on local zoning controls regarding drilling operations. The EAC also heard a presentation on Fluoride in water systems and its possible health effects. This discussion will continue at the next meeting. The EAC heard updates on the Bernhart Park remediation, the rain barrel regulations, the floodplain amendments, stormwater issues, and the Mayor’s Recycling and Solid Waste Subcommittee. The EAC will be presenting its annual report to Council at their July 23 regular meeting.

Health Fees Greenbelt Project – The work group presented its final recommendations to the Business Analyst who accepted their findings. These findings were presented to several community leaders who also supported the findings. The Health Inspector will begin compiling the necessary information so that the final fees can be calculated and billed in late 2012.

Board of Health – Currently BOH meetings are attended by Law, Codes and Council Staff. We have asked the incoming Managing Director to reassign administrative support from the Council Office to the BOH to the Codes Office.

Blighted Property Review Committee – In consultation with the CD Director and Codes, the following property owners were notified that their properties were scheduled for Determination Hearings in August:

1. 2270 Northmont
2. 132 Crestmont
3. 1502 Luzerne
4. 631 Park
5. 426 Douglass

6. 401 Oley
7. 122 N 8th
8. 7 Nottingham
9. 930 N 5th
10. 418 Douglass
11. 251 N 6th
12. 231 Walnut
13. 144 N 2nd
14. 146 N 2nd
15. 126 N 3rd
16. 741 Neversink Alley
17. 743 Neversink Alley

Properties for the September Determination Hearing will be selected in July in consultation with Police Dept and Fire Marshall. Also the RRA purchased several properties in the 900 block of Penn Street from the June Free and Clear Tax Sale. To date the RRA has been unable to take title to any of the CORE designated properties due to the fact the all CORE properties are bank owned. John Kromer will assist in dealing with the problems created by the various banks.

Reading LRA – The Legally Binding Agreements (LBA) executed by Mary’s Shelter and the LRA Chair was submitted to HUD and HUD rejected the agreement. The rejection was surprising as it was the same version HUD approved when the Reading Hospital and Medical Centre was attached to the project. Mary’s Shelter pro bono legal counsel was asked to redraft the LBA in consultation with HUD. The draft is currently being reviewed by the City Solicitor. The Executive Director of the Reading Redevelopment Authority (RRA) informed the City Clerk that he has fielded three (3) calls from interested developers for the approximate 4 acres of residual land.

Bernhart Park – The work group composed of the City Clerk, the Utilities Division Manager, Atty. David Bean and Dr. Eve Kimball met with Exide to discuss the close out of the rehabilitation project. Exide has offered to provide funding to cover the cost of mowing the property for a one year period. The group also discussed the need for signage located at the Crystal Rock and Spring Valley Rd intersection. The signage will also serve to block vehicular access to this area of the park. The work group will ask the Berks Arts Council to assist with the design of the sign. The City will create the sign and it will be installed and landscaped by a local Boy Scout troop.

Staff Activities

Drafted and Prepared

Linda:

- Ads for Special Meetings
- Agenda, Minutes BPRC
- Agenda, Minutes KOEZ/KOIZ Meeting
- Agenda, Minutes Council Sessions

- Ads, Notices, Correspondence re 7-17 Conditional Use Hearing for 918 N 4th
- Meeting Notice District 5 Town Meeting
- Charter Board Meeting Notice
- Move to Amend Resolution
- Firefighter Trainee Resolutions
- Transmission Letter to the Berks County Planning Department re Floodplain Ordinance

Michelle K:

- BAC Expiration letters
- BAC Background Checks
- BAC Background Issues letters
- Complaint Updates
- Solicitation Permit Database Update
- Accounts Payable
- Staff Report
- Meeting Summaries
- Meeting Agendas – including ipad preparations
- Financial Interest Statements
- Update website Boards, Authorities and Commissions
- Office Supply orders
- Update Councilors on Upcoming MDJ Cases regarding Property Maintenance Issues
- Weekly Housing Research Memo
- Ordinance creating Rain Barrel Regulations
- Health Fee Recommendation Memo
- Thank you letter Mayor of Edmonton
- Review Administrative Assistant resumes
- Thank you letter Betty Jean Wagner
- 418 N 12th St letter
- Main Street Board membership letters
- Ordinance creating Riparian Buffer Zoning Overlay District
- Budget Reconciliation
- Mailing for 918 N 4th St hearing
- Flyer Southeast People's Voices meeting
- Train Summer Youth Employee
- 2011 Journal of Council
- Commendations
 - 75th Anniversary of the Sons of American Revolution
 - Edwin Altamarino
 - Samara Ortiz
 - I-Lead Charter School
 - Park and Recreation Month

- Certificates of Recognition
 - Reading Musical Foundation Scholarship winners
 - Berks Best Scholastic Nominees RHS
 - Berks Best Nominees Scholastic Berks Catholic (Reading residents only)
 - Berks Best Spring Athletes RHS
 - Berks Best Spring Athletes Berks Catholic
- Appointment/Reappointment Resolutions
 - William Miller
 - Sean Moretti
 - Erin Weller
 - Michael Leifer
- Scan legislation
- Distribute incoming mail to office staff and council members
- Register meeting speakers as requested
- Prepare and mail Thank You letter for invocators at City Council meetings
- Prepare and mail Thank You letters to speakers
- Mail all necessary handouts/paperwork to BAC members
- Locate, Scan, and/or Copy requested legislation for various departments, other entities, or constituents.
- Prepare Council agenda packets
- Provide IT with live update information for online codified ordinances
- Scan and archive Blighted Property Review Committee property information

Takera:

- 2011 Ordinance Book
- 2011 Resolution Book
- Cotton St Repaving Mailing
- Reading Eagle Article archives scanning
- File paperwork (i.e., contracts, minutes, agendas, etc.) accordingly

All staff:

- Committee of the Whole minutes, Committee meeting minutes and Regular minutes
- Drafted correspondence and memos for members of Council

Researched

Linda:

- CIP Process
- Yard Waste Collection
- Purchasing Policies
- Strategic Action Plans

- 3rd Class City Budgets
- Council Staff Salary Survey

Michelle K:

- EMS Standby Regulations
- Riparian Buffer Ordinances
- Yard Sale Fee

Meetings Attended

Linda:

6/1 – Police Graduation
 6/2 – Police Reading Comprehension Test
 6/4 – ICC
 6/4 – Floodplain Public Hearing
 6/4 – Housing & Economic Development Committee
 6/5 – Landlords re rental inspection fee w/ R. Corcoran
 6/5 – Legal Specialist re Recodification of Ordinances
 6/5 – District 5 Town Meeting
 6/6 – Bernhart Park re close out of project
 6/6 – School Board, Commissioners, Council re KOEZ/KOIZ
 6/7 – John Kromer re BPRC
 6/8 – Fairview Board of Directors
 6/8 – Sheriff Sale
 6/11 – ICC
 6/11 – Committee of the Whole
 6/11 – Regular Council Meeting
 6/12 – John Kromer re BPRC
 6/13 – Historic District Meeting
 6/13 – CD Director re BPRC
 6/14 – Latino Business owners, F. Acosta, A. Figueroa re Health Permit Fees
 6/14 – Act 47
 6/14 – Special Meeting re appointment of Admin Services Director
 6/15 – CD and Codes re BPRC Property Selection
 6/18 – ICC
 6/18 – Finance Committee
 6/18 – Work Session
 6/21 – BPRC
 6/22 – SYEMP at Career Link
 6/25 – ICC
 2/26 – RBI Planning

Michelle K:

6/1 – Bid opening – 42” Force Main
 6/4 – Nominations and Appointments Committee
 6/4 – Floodplain Public Hearing

6/4 – Open Government, Rules and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
 6/5 – Solicitor regarding Committee issues
 6/5 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/5 – RFP opening – Charter Board Investigative Officer
 6/6 – RFP opening – Construction Manager
 6/8 – Administrative Assistant Resume Review
 6/11 – Committee of the Whole
 6/12 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/12 – Bid opening – Electric Distribution at WWTP
 6/14 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/18 – Public Works, Public Safety, and Neighborhood Services Committee
 6/19 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/21 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/25 – Committee of the Whole
 6/26 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication
 6/26 – Environmental Advisory Council
 6/28 – Lunch & Learn – Assertive Communication

Requests for Information – 2

Council Activities

Topics under Discussion and Consideration

- Council held a public hearing regarding the amendment to the City's Floodplain Zoning regulations.
- Council held a joint meeting with the County Commissioners and the Reading School Board regarding expanding and extending the City's Keystone Opportunity Zones.
- Council held a special meeting to appoint the new Administrative Services Director and to set his salary.
- Councilor Reed held a Town Meeting to hear neighborhood concerns.

Legislation under Consideration

- **Bill No. 74-2012** –amending the 2012 City of Reading Position Ordinance by decreasing the number of Chief Clerks, decreasing the number of Property Maintenance Inspectors, and increasing the number of Property Maintenance Specialists within the Community Development Department, Codes Division (**Law**)

Introduced at the June 11 regular meeting; Tabled at the June 25 regular meeting

- **Ordinance** – refunding of 2008 E Bonds (**Financial Solutions**)
Introduced at the June 25 regular meeting
- **Ordinance** - amending Chapter 13, Licenses, Permits and General Business Regulations, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding a definition for and giving authority to a Billing Agent and adding Appeal Language (**Law**) *Introduced at the June 25 regular meeting*
- **Ordinance** - amending Chapter 11, Housing, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding a prosecution of violation section to allow the Property Maintenance Division to commence criminal action in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure in the Court of appropriate jurisdiction (**Law**) *Introduced at the June 25 regular meeting*
- **Ordinance** - amending Chapter 1, “Administration and Government” by adding Part 12, Authorizing the City to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for the purpose of creating a Coalition to address the MS4 Permit requirements for the Wyomissing Creek Watershed (**Law**) *Introduced at the June 25 regular meeting*
- **Resolution** - expressing support for limited challenge to PA Act 13 (**EAC**)
- **Resolution** – extending the lease between the City and the Reading Phillies (**Law**)

Legislation Adopted

- **Bill No. 36-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to execute the third addendum to the lease and operating agreement between the City of Reading, Pennsylvania and the Reading Area Water Authority, in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and such other documents necessitated thereby, including, without limitation, (1) a deed conveying to the Reading Area Water Authority an approximately one hundred twenty (120) acre parcel of land located in Ontelaunee Township owned by the City and (2) a deed conveying to the Reading Area Water Authority an approximately two and thirty-nine one hundredths (2.39) acre parcel of land owned by the City and located at 1801 Moss Street in the City of Reading (**Man Dir**) *Introduced at the March 12 regular meeting; Tabled at the March 26 regular meeting; Tabled at the April 2 special meeting; Tabled at the April 9 regular meeting; Tabled at the May 29 regular meeting*

- **Bill No. 64-2012** – amending Codified Ordinance Chapter 27 Zoning Part 18 Floodplain Districts (**Public Works**) *Introduced at the May 14 regular meeting; Public Hearing held on June 4*
- **Bill No. 65-2012** - setting forth the salary of the Administrative Services Director of the City of Reading at EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$85,000.00) annually (**Mayor**) *Introduced at the May 29 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 66-2012** – refinancing Reading Phillies loan (**Reading Phillies**) *Introduced at the May 29 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 67-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to execute an Easement between the City of Reading and the Metropolitan Edison Company thereby conveying unto the Metropolitan Edison Company a permanent easement and uninterrupted right of access as described in said easement upon that portion of premises along Skyline Drive, Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania (PIN no. 5317-02-76-2194) for installation of one (1) pole and overhead primary electric facilities for service to the Berks County 911 cell tower (**Law**) *Introduced at the May 29 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 68-2012** - amending the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading, Chapter 1 Administration and Government, Part 5 Boards, Departments, Commissions, Committees and Councils, Part C Human Relations Commission, §1-525 Powers and Duties of Commission by providing for a method of enforcing subpoenas (**Law**) *Introduced at the May 29 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 69-2012** - authorizing the Mayor to execute a grant of right of way and easement and an access agreement between the City of Reading and Habasit America, Inc., thereby conveying unto the City of Reading a nonexclusive, temporary construction easement and nonexclusive, perpetual access easement upon that portion of premises within parcel identification number 530620916265, situate at 825 Morgantown Road in the City of Reading, Pennsylvania (**Public Works**) *Introduced at the June 11 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 70-2012** – amending City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 4 Buildings by adding the Heights Conservation District (**HARB**) *Introduced at the June 11 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 71-2012** – amending the Codified Ordinances, Chapter 11, Housing, Section 102, Definitions, by expanding the definition of a Vacant Property to include a Vacant Property for Sale, A Vacant Property Undergoing Rehabilitation and a Vacation/Second Residence as well as adding a Penalty for Failing to Timely Register a Vacant Property as attached in Exhibit A (**Law**) *Introduced at the April 23 regular meeting without documentation; Re-introduced at the June 11 regular meeting*

- **Bill No. 72-2012** - amending the Fee Schedule of the City of Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania, Codified Ordinances, related to the Property Maintenance Division of the Department of Community Development Vacant Property Registration (Law) *Introduced at the June 11 regular meeting*
- **Bill No. 73-2012** – transferring \$1.5 million from the general fund to the solid waste/recycling fund (Finance) *Introduced at the June 11 regular meeting*
- **Resolution** – appointing Steven Edward Ginder as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Joshua Russell Green as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Jeffrey Hughes LeCompte as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing John Robert Naylor as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Gabriel John Shoemaker as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Ben Lloyd Barstow as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Kevin Charles Ayers, Jr as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing James Patrick Salanik as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Richard H Zondlo, II as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Charlie John Secara as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Jason Matthew Wood as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** – appointing Matthew Tyler Staley as a Firefighter Trainee (Fire)
- **Resolution** - extending the term of exemptions, deductions, abatements and credits for real property, earned income tax, net profits mercantile, and business privilege taxes within a specific geographic area in City of Reading, Berks County designated as a Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (“KOEZ”) or Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone (“KOIZ”) in order to foster economic opportunities, stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential improvements and prevent physical and infrastructure deterioration within areas of City of Reading, Berks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon certain terms and conditions (Com Dev) *Tabled at the May 29 regular meeting; Joint meeting with the School Board and County Commissioners held on June 6*
- **Resolution** - authorizing the exemptions, deductions, abatements and credits for

real property, earned income tax, net profits mercantile, and business privilege taxes within a specific geographic area in City of Reading, Berks County (“expansion parcel(s)”) designated as a proposed expansion of a contiguous existing Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone (“KOEZ”) or Keystone Opportunity Improvement Zone (“KOIZ”), as appropriate, in order to foster economic opportunities, stimulate industrial, commercial, and residential improvements and prevent physical and infrastructure deterioration within the designated areas of City of Reading, Berks County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, upon certain terms and conditions **(Com Dev) Tabled at the May 29 regular meeting; Joint meeting with the School Board and County Commissioners held on June 6**

- **Resolution** – accepting the Pennvest loan in the amount of \$10,013,950 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant project **(Financial S&I)**
- **Resolution** – reappointing William Miller to the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals **(Nom & Appts)**
- **Resolution** – appointing Sean Moretti to the Main Street Board **(Nom & Appts)**
- **Resolution** – appointing Erin Weller to the Historical Architectural Review Board **(Nom & Appts)**
- **Resolution** – appointing Michael Leifer to the Fire Civil Service Board **(Nom & Appts)**
- **Resolution** – appointing Matthew Bembenick as Administrative Services Director **(Mayor)**
- **Resolution** - to call on our legislators and elected officials to join the tens of thousands of citizens, grassroots organizations and local governments across the Commonwealth in the “Move to Amend Campaign” to call for an amendment to the Constitution to abolish corporate personhood and return our elections to the citizens of the United States and reclaim our right to self-governance **(Council Staff)**

Committee Discussion Topics

Finance, Audit and Budget Committee

- Reviewed **legislation** with financial implications
- Reviewed **YTD budget expenditures**
- Reviewed **contracts** issued outside the procurement process
- Reviewed the City’s **financial status** and **IT report** and **Customer Service Center report**

- Received a report from the **Auditor** on the **WWTP improvement projects**

Public Safety, Public Works and Neighborhood Services Committee

- Reviewed **traffic issues** with the Citadel Intermediate High School
- Discussed the Recreation Commission and **Recreation Rental Revenue**

Open Government, Rules and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

- Discussed the **ICC Implementation**
- Discussed **Ethics Training**
- Requested a review of all **Lease Agreements**
- Discussed the **Communication Policy**

Housing, Economic Development and Strategies Committee

- Heard an update on the **implementation of the Housing Ordinance**
- Heard an update on the **Certificate of Transfer** implementation
- Heard an update on the **Zoning Backlog**
- Discussed the collection of **grass clippings** with yard waste

Nominations and Appointments Committee:

- **Boards, Authorities & Commissions** – conducted 3 appointment/reappointment interviews and recommended 4 appointment actions, where applicable, to the body of Council
- Discussed the membership of the **Main Street Board**



CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

Community Development Department
Reading's Success is Our Mission

Quality of Life Ordinance Enforcement
Mayor Spencer's Recommendations
June 18, 2012

After evaluating the City of Reading's Quality of Life Program (QoL) it was determined that six QoL violation categories account for 96% of all violations, while seventeen QoL violation categories account for 4%. With this reality in mind we focused on the following recommendations for the top six violation categories:

1. High weeds, grass or plants;
2. Accumulation of rubbish or garbage;
3. No storage containers for waste;
4. Outdoor placement of indoor furniture;
5. Disposal of rubbish or garbage / dumping; and
6. Motor Vehicles.

All recommendations provided in this document are classified in two broad categories:

1. Administrative recommendations are actions that Mayor Spencer will ask his staff to implement;
2. Policy recommendations will be provided to council for analysis and implementation.

Administrative Recommendations: Increase Awareness by:

1. Starting a bilingual informational campaign that includes:
 - a. Description of ordinance
 - b. Visual Packet with pictures of what is acceptable and what is not
 - c. Calendar with enforcement reminders and routes
 - d. Information for coordinating with public works to pick up yard waste
 - e. Discussions in interviews, BCTV programs, neighborhood meetings
 - f. Revised flyer for distribution/awareness-building
2. Fining \$0 to all first-time violations. Notify property owner by posting ticket at door, then mailing information on remedies.
3. Establishing a protocol for collections: mail reminder notices to increase collections in the first month; enforce collections of unpaid QoL violations issued thereafter;
4. Increase use of technology to improve operations and constituent access to records and online appeal and payment services;